

**ALASKA DEPARTMENT OF FISH AND GAME
DIVISION OF COMMERCIAL FISHERIES
NEWS RELEASE**



*Cora Campbell, Commissioner
Jeff Regnart, Director*



Contact:
Jim Menard, Area Management Biologist
Scott M. Kent, Asst. Area Management Biologist
Phone: (907) 443-5167
Fax: (907) 443-5893

Nome Area Office
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Nome, Alaska 99762
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NORTON SOUND COMMERCIAL SALMON OPENINGS

Commercial salmon fishing reopens in the Elim and Norton Bay Subdistricts effective 6:00 p.m. this evening.

In the Elim Subdistrict, there will be one 48-hour period from 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 27 to 6:00 p.m. Thursday, August 29, and one 40-hour period from 8:00 a.m. Friday, August 30 to 12:00 midnight Saturday evening, August 31. The Elim Subdistrict commercial salmon fishing season will close by emergency order effective midnight Saturday evening, August 31. Commercial coho salmon harvest stands at nearly 5,400 cohos, which ranks 7th best in 51 years of harvests. It is likely that the harvest will rank 4th or 5th best at the time of the season closure.

In Norton Sound Subdistrict 4, the Norton Bay Subdistrict, commercial salmon fishing reopens to a schedule of two 48-hour periods per week effective 6:00 p.m. Tuesday, August 27. Periods will be from 6:00 p.m. Tuesdays to 6:00 p.m. Thursdays, and from 6:00 p.m. Fridays to 6:00 p.m. Sundays. The season will close by emergency order effective 6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 5. Nearly 5,400 cohos have been harvested in Norton Bay this season, which is a new record harvest.

Catches during the recent 48-hour fishing periods ending this weekend were 200 coho salmon by 6 permit holders in Golovin, 885 coho salmon by 18 permit holders in Elim, and 148 coho salmon by 4 permit holders in Norton Bay. Catches were average for this date.

No more commercial periods will be permitted for the Golovin Subdistrict. Catches have declined rapidly over the past week and the tail end of the run will need to be conserved to ensure that inriver subsistence needs and escapements are achieved. Golovin permit holders caught 5,353 cohos this season which is second only to the record harvest of 5,586 cohos taken in 2010. Congratulations to Golovin fishermen and Norton Sound Seafood Products on a good coho salmon season in Golovin Bay.

Nearly 49,000 coho salmon have been harvested in the Norton Sound commercial fishery this season. The harvest is projected to reach or slightly exceed the upper end of the forecasted harvest range of 30,000–60,000 cohos. The department will conduct peak aerial spawning ground surveys of coho salmon beginning this week.